(a) the total number of posts reserved for SCs/STs lying vacant in the Ministry and departments and undertakings under his Ministry as on 30 June, 1997;

(b) the date from which these posts are lying vacant;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to fill up these vacancies ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Implementation of Motor Vehicle Act, 1993

2937. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDAY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made arrangement to ensure the implementation of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1993 and Section 97 of the said Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main rules enshrined in the Motor Vehicle Act, 1993 and section 97 of the said act ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) There is no Act as Motor Vehicle Act, 1993. Also, there are no main rules of Motor Vehicle Act, 1993 since the Act itself does not exist.

Parliament Control on Government Funds

2938. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :
SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the Times of India dated May 9, 1997 under the heading "Parliament has no control over 80% of the Government funds"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) Yes, Please.

(b) The news item has mainly referred to large governmental expenditure which is classified as 'charged' on the Consolidated. Funds of India and the incidence of rush of expenditure in March. Provisions for 'charged' expenditure are duly budgeted and even though these are not subject to vote of Parliament, the 'charged' expenditure is included in the Appropriation Bill, which is approved by the Parliament.

As regards rush of expenditure in March, instructions to Ministries/Departments are already existing for ensuring that the expenditure budgeted for the year should be evenly spread so as to avoid rush of expenditure towards the close of he financial year. However, such items of expenditure are not unauthorised since these are incurred out of the provision sanctioned in the Budget as per the Appropriation Act.

[Translation]

Espionage Activities at Bihata IAF Airport

2939. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any incident of espionage occurred at Bihata airport of Air Force recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons arrested in this regard;

(c) whether any important clue was received during the interrogation; and.

(d) if not, the steps the Government propose to take to check such espionage activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, on 20th August, 1996 a College student tried to enter Air Force Station, Bihata impersonating as an airman, who was apprehended and handed over to Civil Police.

[English]

Kerosene

2940. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are spending huge amunt in the form of subsidy for kerosene oil;

(b) whether the Government are aware that in some States Kerosene oil is distributed in big cities and not adequately supplied to poor villagers;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the malpractices in the distribution of kerosene oil